

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris
DATE: October 24, 1996
SERIAL NO: 08/286,413 GROUP ART UNIT: 2111
FILED: August 5, 1994 EXAMINER: R. Gibson
FOR: "Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss Determination System"
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: A94087US (51929/1)

DECLARATION OF ED BLACHE, R.N., UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sirs:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am familiar with the above-referenced invention as claimed in the claims presented in the Rule 116 Response dated September 24, 1996 filed in the above-referenced patent application.

I have been employed as a Registered Nurse for ten years. Eight years in the operating room and two years in a Surgical Intensive Care Unit. I am familiar with the invention of Sharon L. Morris, RN mentioned above. In my professional opinion, this device solves the problem of accurate and instantaneous calculation of Estimated Blood Loss contained in sponges during surgical procedures.

This is the only device that I am aware of that automatically computes EBL without manual calculation and weighing of sponges by nurses. In addition, this device, as described in the patent application, should perform this calculation with a high degree of accuracy. This can be important in cases involving small children or infants and in heavy blood loss procedures which use large numbers of soiled sponges. I believe that this device will also reduce blood exposure for nursing personnel responsible for counting and weighing soiled surgical sponges.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and that this statement is made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Blache', written over a horizontal line.

Ed Blache, RN

10-24-76

Date